THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) to (c) The Prime Minister's New 15 Point Programme for the Welfare of Minorities provides for giving special consideration to minorities in recruitment of police personnel, Central Police forces, Railways, nationalized banks and public sector enterprises. In pursuance of this, the Department of Personnel & Training has issued an Office Memorandum on 8th January, 2007. States have been advised suitably.

(d) As per available information from 1st April, 2007 to 17th September, 2007, Central Para Military Forces recruited 1976 personnel from the minorities.

Reservation for Dalit-Christians

672. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the socio-economic conditions of the Dalit-Christians is as bad as the other SC/ST categories;

(b) whether there is a demand for their inclusion in the reserved category;

(c) if so, whether Government would consider their inclusion too in the reserved category;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) to (e) One of the terms of reference of the National Commission for Religious & Linguistic Minorities (NCRLM) was to suggest the criteria for identification of socially and economically backward sections among religious and linguistic minorities and to recommend measures for their welfare, including reservation, in education and Government employment.

The NCRLM was also asked to give it's recommendations on the issues raised in Writ Petition Nos. 180/04 and 94/05 filed in the Supreme Court and in certain High Courts relating to para 3 of the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950, in the context of ceiling of 50% reservation, as also the modalities of inclusion in the list of Scheduled Castes.

The NCRLM submitted its report in May, 2007. The recommendations of NCRLM are under consideration of Government.

Committee on functioning of National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation

673. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an expert Committee has been set up recently by Government to review the functioning of the National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation (NMDFC);

(b) if so, whether the Committee has submitted its report;

(c) if so, the details of the recommendations taken up for implementation and the status of their implementation, issue-wise; and

(d) if not, the reasons for the delay in submitting the report?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The Expert Committee has recommended restructuring of NMDFC in order to expand its coverage. The recommendation is being processed.

Wind power potential in Rajasthan

674. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has studied the wind power potential in Rajasthan;

(b) how much potential has been tapped; and

(c) whether Government plan to tap the entire production and what kind of assistance Government has offered in this regard to different entrepreneurs in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Wind resource assessment studies carried out at 38 locations in Rajasthan have indicated potential for setting up wind power projects at six locations, which have wind power density of 200 watts per square meter or more. Based on this, a gross wind power potential of 5400 MW has been estimated in the state assuming land availability @ 1% of potential areas and wind farm land requirement @ 12 Hectares per MW.

(c) Yes, Sir. A wind power installed capacity of 494 MW has been set up in the State of Rajasthan upto September, 2007. The Government of India promotes setting up of commercial wind power projects in the country, including in the State of Rajasthan, by providing fiscal incentives such as concessional import duty on certain components of wind electricity generator, excise duty exemption, ten years tax holiday on income generated from wind power projects, benefit of accelerated depreciation and loan from Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA). Technical support including detailed wind resource assessment to identify further potential sites is provided by the Centre for Wind Energy Technology (C-WET). This apart, preferential tariff is being provided for wind power in most of the potential States, including Rajasthan.

Functioning of wind mills

675. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of wind-mills functioning in the country, as on date, State-wise;

(b) whether some new sites have been identified for installation of wind mills in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) Wind Power Projects with an aggregate installed capacity of 7660 MW, comprising of Wind Turbines of 225 KW to 1650 KW unit capacities, have